

House Study Bill 565 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED SECRETARY OF
STATE BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the establishment of pilot programs related
2 to elections by the state commissioner of elections.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 47.1, Code 2018, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. *a.* It is the intent of the general
4 assembly that the state commissioner evaluate the benefits
5 of establishing innovative programs and procedures in the
6 administration of elections in the state. To achieve this
7 goal, the state commissioner may establish pilot programs
8 related to the administration of elections. Pilot programs
9 may be proposed by either the state commissioner or, through
10 application to the state commissioner, by a county commissioner
11 of elections.

12 *b.* A pilot program shall not last longer than two
13 consecutive election cycles following the approval of the
14 program by the state commissioner.

15 *c.* A pilot program shall include a sufficient number of
16 counties, as determined by the state commissioner, to conclude
17 whether the program should apply statewide.

18 *d.* Each county participating in an ongoing pilot program
19 shall submit an annual report summarizing the results of the
20 program to the state commissioner. The state commissioner
21 shall file the reports with the general assembly.

22 *e.* Pilot programs shall not seek to do any of the following:

23 (1) Alter the voter registration requirements of chapter
24 48A.

25 (2) Alter the voter identification requirements of section
26 49.78.

27 (3) Alter the voting systems requirements of chapter 52.

28 (4) Diminish the accessibility of polling places.

29 *f.* The state commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to
30 chapter 17A to carry out this subsection.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill authorizes the state commissioner of elections
35 to establish pilot programs related to the administration

1 of elections. The bill allows the state commissioner and
2 county commissioners of elections to propose pilot programs.
3 The bill requires any pilot program to last no longer than
4 two consecutive election cycles and to contain sufficient
5 counties to determine statewide feasibility. Each county
6 participating in a pilot program must make an annual report to
7 the state commissioner summarizing the results of the program.
8 The state commissioner shall then file the reports with the
9 general assembly. Pilot programs must not seek to alter
10 voter registration, voter identification, or voting systems
11 requirements, or diminish the accessibility of polling places.
12 The bill requires the state commissioner to adopt rules to
13 carry out the provisions of the bill.